



No 604

St Michael & All Angels Church  
Pirbright Parish Council

# Peri News



January 2021

## WISHING EVERYONE A *MUCH* HAPPIER NEW YEAR

### CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

As we enter into January 2021, with ten months of living with strict COVID protocol under our belts (and a few more months to go), VoC Day does seem to be within reach now. As I write this, the first few UK nonagenarians are receiving their vaccines and the whole Cunningham House community awaits our turn. Christmas was quiet, as we all decided it wasn't worth the risk to mix with families. Instead we are waiting as patiently as we can to be able to celebrate Victory over Covid Day. VoC Day will be celebrated in true Cunningham House style; residents and families, staff, committee and friends together again to eat, drink and be merry!

Lucy

*(And so say all of us! Editor)*



### MUMMY & ME BOOTCAMP

Would you be interested in joining a weekly Mummy & Me bootcamp on the village green? Buggies and babies of all ages welcome. Great way to meet other local mums and babies whilst getting fit with the help of a professional trainer who specialises in postnatal fitness. Weekly pay as you go classes. If you would be interested please email Hayley Mullens at [hayley.mullens@hotmail.com](mailto:hayley.mullens@hotmail.com)



### SURREY CRISIS FUND

Are you facing financial difficulties this winter? Help is available. This year has had a huge effect on people's lives, with the impact of COVID-19 pushing many to financial breaking point. At this time of year, with extra pressure on household budgets, it is important to know that help is available to avoid dangerous loans and long lasting debt.

As part of the government's Winter Support Grant, Surrey County Council has made extra funding available to the Surrey Crisis Fund. This money is there to act as a winter life-line for those feeling that there is nowhere to turn when unexpected bills appear or essential household items break down, leaving no money for essential living costs. Please search 'Surrey Crisis Fund' online, or phone Surrey Community Helpline on 0300 200 1008 or ask at your local library or Citizens Advice Bureau.



# ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH



## *Just a thought.....*

### **Time to move on?**

As we do every year, as a new year begins we start to make plans, to think about all the things we weren't able to do, places we weren't able to go to...we start to move on with our lives. This new year especially, I'm sure all of us are hoping that 2021 will see a return to *something* like the sort of 'normality' we were used to before the dreadful Covid-19 pandemic wreaked its havoc on lives around the world. The announcement of effective vaccines last November will surely have boosted those hopes.

But I'm also sure that during the past months of lockdown and distancing from



others, some of us might have found ourselves looking inwards at our lives and even making changes to how we think and feel, not just about ourselves but about others as well: our relationships, our values. So could this new year be a time to move on in a different way? How many of us, for instance, still carry the burden of deep-seated hurt from someone or something in our past? Forgiving is sometimes incredibly hard to do – I know from personal experience. But once we have crossed the boundary between holding on to whatever it is that we find so hard to forgive and being willing at least to *begin* the process of forgiving we may just find that our burden becomes progressively lighter.

If the past year has taught us anything it is surely that life is precious. So why not take this opportunity of a new year to move on personally, to embrace life as it *is*, not as it was.

Whatever this new year has in store, my hope and prayer for all of us is that it will be a happy and fulfilling one.

*Rev'd Gary Williamson*

### **PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET**



A Happy New Year and a big thank you for your support through what has been a difficult year for everyone. Following our Christmas break our first Market of 2021 will be on Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Lord Pirbright's Hall.

### **THE CIRCLE OF LIFE IN PIRBRIGHT**

Remembering Alan Collings who died in November. Alan was a former resident of Furze Hill, Chair of Governors at Winston Churchill School, Chair of the Pirbright PCC and a formidable bellringer. Called home.



**Contact Rev Bev** 07495 395225 [revbev.stmaa@gmail.com](mailto:revbev.stmaa@gmail.com)

**Church Administrator** Chris Green [admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk) 07599154872

**Churchwardens** Catherine Cobley 481234, Helen Whitworth 07777 659138  
e mail [churchwardens@pirbrightchurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@pirbrightchurch.org.uk)

## ST MICHAEL'S MEGANORMOUS CHRISTMAS QUIZ

How are you doing with our fiendish quiz? Don't forget you only need to get one question correct to be in with a chance of winning one of the fabulous prizes. Remember to send your entries in by 14th January and don't worry if you have lost your entry form, you can pick one up in the church porch or download it from the Church website. Winners will be notified personally and published in the February PeriNews



## PLANT SALE AND GARDEN WALKS 8th –9th May

One thing we learned in 2020 was how lucky we are to live in a place with so many lovely outside spaces, and what a blessing our gardens have been! Many were inspired to try growing fruit, veg and flowers for the first time and are ready to go to the next level.

To celebrate all things gardening and to support all our local gardeners, we are crossing fingers, toes and everything else in the hope that the annual church plant sale and popular open garden walks will go ahead on the weekend of 8th and 9th May. The event is entirely out of doors, and relatively easy to maintain social distancing, so it can be covid safe. There will be at least six inspirational gardens for everyone to visit, as well as the usual sale of locally grown flower and vegetable plants, with expert advice on hand to help you get the very best out of your garden. Put the date in your dairy and watch out for more information in future editions of PeriNews.



## PIRBRIGHT ART CLUB!

The Virtual' Annual Exhibition has been extended until 4th January! It is not too late to view our slide-show/gallery exhibition. Visit [www.pirbrightartclub.co.uk/exhibitions](http://www.pirbrightartclub.co.uk/exhibitions) for the last chance to see some wonderful original artwork and maybe find a bargain - we will be offering some works at lower prices for the remaining few days of the show! Contact Maggie Read for further details and to enquire about membership of the art club in 2021. tel: 07977 552780 email: [pirbrightartclub@btconnect.com](mailto:pirbrightartclub@btconnect.com)



## PIRBRIGHT WI

We are not meeting in January, but we do hope to start our meetings asap. PIRbright WI hopes you had a Happy Christmas and wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

*Irene 01483 233279*

## CHURCH SERVICES in January

**3rd:** Epiphany: Family service on zoom

**10th:** 1st Sunday of Epiphany 'Baptism of Christ' Service in church and on zoom

**17th:** 2nd Sunday of Epiphany: Service in church and on zoom

**24th:** 3rd Sunday of Epiphany: Service in Church and on zoom

**30th:** 4th Sunday of Epiphany 'Presentation of Christ (Candlemas) Service in church and on zoom



## PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

### Pirbright Community

As we step into the New Year and look forward to 2021 with renewed excitement, the Parish Council will be planning for many of the activities we hope to resume during the year. The Village Fair, set provisionally for June 12<sup>th</sup>, makes a welcome return to the parish calendar. We are getting on with agreeing the precept which, as a part of the overall Council Tax raised by Guildford Borough, is the main source of funding for the work of the Parish Council. We are finding that with support and services being cut back as Surrey and Guildford face ever tighter financial challenges, some of these requirements are falling on the Parish Council to try and maintain provision. It will require us to prioritise our activities and focus on those things that really make a difference to

people's lives and our environment. There are still significant areas of work to undertake this year, including further tree management on our land within the Parish, maintenance to the play-ground and village green and of course, the



submission of our bid to 'Your Fund Surrey' for funding to kickstart the Community Sports Pavilion, which we believe to be vital to helping youth and adult sport and recreation within the village more accessible to people of all ages and abilities. If you are able to voice your support, please log on to [Your Fund Surrey Has Launched - What's Your Idea? \(commonplace.is\)](https://www.commonplace.is) search the map for Pirbright and click on the bubble. No commitment is needed, it just gives an indication of community support and may help us win the funds our community needs.

### News from Lord Pirbright's Hall

The year is beginning well at the Hall, with the return of activities that are permitted under current restrictions. During December we welcomed Debbie as our cleaner for weekdays, while Roy & his team erected a Christmas tree and decorations on the roof of the committee room and at the front of the Hall.

All too soon, our tree will be joining others in the compound, erected by GBC in the corner of the car park, with collections for recycling them starting on 4th January and continuing until the 18th.

**Pirbright Parish Council Chair:** Steve Fidgett, [sdfidgett@icloud.com](mailto:sdfidgett@icloud.com), 07785 978817

**Parish Clerk:** Helen Myers, [clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk) 07485 411214

**Parish website** [www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk](http://www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk)

**Lord Pirbright's Hall** Lindsay Graham [lp@pirbright-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lp@pirbright-pc.gov.uk) tel 01483 476432

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Unfortunately I am not yet in a position to say categorically when our monthly meetings will start again due to the ever changing Covid 19 restrictions. However, wishing to sow the seeds of hope for the new year I urge everyone to prepare for our show which I

sincerely hope will take place at the end of July. So please take the opportunity to sow your seeds, divide your herbaceous plants,

take your photographs, keep up your craft work etc to prepare for the show and remain positive and optimistic. Let's make it a show to remember!

*Philip Barralet*





## PIRBRIGHT SUMMER FAIR: June 12th

**We're going back to sea!**

Who knows what 2021 will bring, we can only move forward in hope of something better than 2020. And in that optimistic frame of mind we are planning for the Village Summer Fair to give the whole community a great day out on June 12th. The theme will be all things to do with the sea and the seaside so think ships, pirates, sea monsters, mermaids and whales, or sandcastles and candyfloss.

Our legendary summer fair is a fun day out for all the family, with music and spectacle, fun and games, treats to eat and treasures to buy. It is also a great fundraiser for all our clubs and societies, and a perfect opportunity to promote your organisation, interest or business. A wonderful way to bring our community together and let's face it, after a year of isolation we all need a bit of community right now. Put June 12th in your diary now and start thinking about how your family, club, social group or business can be a part of it.

**HELP NEEDED** - putting on this event is not onerous, but the more people who can help the better. In particular we need people *now* who can help with organisation, finding stalls and attractions, advertising or helping to organise volunteers. If you can give just a little time in the coming months please contact [pirbright-summer-event@hotmail.com](mailto:pirbright-summer-event@hotmail.com) or tel 01483 476432



## PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS

**Sir Edward Wilfrid Harry Travis.** As you can see, a formidable man was he. Always known as 'Jumbo', he has been aptly described as '*gruff, rough and burly*'. We knew a little about him, but not until recently, when his grandson contacted us via our website, did we discover his remarkable life. Commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1909 when 21, he made a name for himself in WW1 as signals officer to Admiral Jellicoe, promptly deciphering his so-called secret code, so was swiftly transferred to the Admiralty. In 1919, GCCS (the Government Code & Cypher School) was formed & Travis became Deputy Head. Come WW2, now Head of what had become GCHQ, and a superb administrator, he was responsible for funding & setting up the Enigma team at Bletchley Park, which grew 3 years later to nearly 9000. Knighted in 1944, after the War he beefed up the intelligence network with the USA & became the first non-American to be awarded an American Medal of Merit & citation from President Truman.

And the Pirbright connection? He & wife Muriel bought Heatherwood, on the left-hand side of the Aldershot Road in 1922, living there up to 1929, when he had Burners built, the thatched house set back on the opposite side of the road.

During the war, some of Churchill's meetings were at Burners. Muriel used to complain bitterly that security-mad Americans would leave their pistols on her polished table & scratch it! Both Traveses are buried in the churchyard, 'Jumbo' in 1956 and Muriel in 1973, who died at Chiff Chaffs, a bungalow they had built next door. When you're next walking up Church Lane, spare a thought for this remarkable man, who helped to save countless lives by shortening the Second World War.

Jonathan Foster: [jonathan@pirbright.info](mailto:jonathan@pirbright.info)



## LIZZIE IN LOCKDOWN

As New Year's Eve Celebrations go, Lizzie rather enjoyed seeing in 2021



## Why parking your car is getting more difficult

Have you noticed that it is getting harder to park your car? And that when you finally do get parked, you can barely get the door open enough to squeeze out? It is not your fault. Modern cars have grown so big that many drivers now have as little as 21cm of room to spare in a parking space. The country's most popular cars are as much as 55 per cent bigger than they were in the Seventies, while the standard parking space has not grown at all. The Mini Hatch now takes up to 22 per cent more of a parking space than the original did, back in 1959.



The current size of a parking bay is 2.4m by 4.8m, and has not changed in 50 years.

## PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

[www.pirbrighttennisclub.com](http://www.pirbrighttennisclub.com)

Happy New Year: We hope you have a great year with lots of tennis.

Booking courts and playing: visit website home page for Covid-19 guidelines.

Club Nights: every Tuesday from 6.30pm. Free floodlights, all welcome.

Ladies Morning: every Monday 9am.

Cardio Tennis: Thursdays 9.45am, 'play and pay' or book online: [www.tennis-extreme.com](http://www.tennis-extreme.com) £8.00 members / £8.50 Non members.

Coaching, Courses and Re-Stringing:

Tim Seymour: 07887 723554 or [tennisextremeuk@gmail.com](mailto:tennisextremeuk@gmail.com)  
[www.tennis-extreme.com](http://www.tennis-extreme.com)

New membership: Special mid-year rate – check the website for full details or contact Monika Driscoll:

e-mail: [driscollmonika@gmail.com](mailto:driscollmonika@gmail.com)

## PIRBRIGHT CRICKET CLUB

Whilst it's not exactly cricket weather, much is going on behind the scenes to prepare for next summer, which will be the first full year of Pirbright Youth Cricket. Having



finally started the activities in July 2020 and reaching 60 players, with a waiting list, we are hoping to start much earlier in 2021 - 3<sup>rd</sup> January to be exact!

Indoor skills pre-season sessions start for the Youth section at Winston Churchill School sports complex on Sunday mornings between 9 & 11am with Surrey Coach Brian Berthoud leading the sessions. There are 2 blocks of 6 weeks each.

These sessions will help prepare players for the summer season. We have teams entered in the Surrey Junior Cricket Championship for both boys and all girl sides. With training sessions from Reception to Year 8 we look forward to seeing many of you on the green this summer. For information about these courses or about the youth section activities please email Chris Smith

[pcccoaching@yahoo.com](mailto:pcccoaching@yahoo.com)

The adult section is growing in strength and hopes that its winter training will be able to begin (COVID 19 allowing) later in the spring, more details to follow.

*Chris Smith*



## CHURCHYARD CHRONICLES

There have been some odd goings on in the churchyard lately. It started with a lady and a tame goose, which she insisted laid golden eggs. I've seen those geese on the village Green, and I wasn't going anywhere near its eggs, whatever they were made of. Then there was that young man who had walked all the way from London, but as soon as the church bells started ringing he had turned around and was heading back up the A322 muttering about being the next Mayor. The young lady with an entire entourage of vertically challenged gentlemen friends seemed pleasant enough though I didn't think much of her step mother, who kept on about a lost mirror. And whoever heard of a cat wearing boots?

But oddest of all was a young chap we found anxiously searching the ground. He said he had dropped one of his bean seeds and needed to find it because they were magical. One of the rabbits nipped next door and fetched some broad beans left over from the last plant sale, and the lad went off happily enough. But next morning, a massive beanstalk had grown in exactly the same spot the boy had been searching. It twined up the bell tower and kept going until it disappeared into the clouds. We sent one of the squirrels up to see what was at the top and we haven't seen him since. I've no idea what's going on, have you?

*Yellow Rabbit (What do you mean, 'It's behind me?')*



## JANUARY GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

This is a great time to plan what you would like to do in the garden for the rest of the year, take a note book and walk around the garden. Look at seed catalogues for ideas of what to sow. Midwinter is a tough time for wildlife in the garden. Make sure there is a continuous supply of food and fresh water. Prune apple and pear trees, if there is no risk of frosts, by taking out any diseased, crossing or dead branches. The aim is to end up with an open tree that allows light and air into it. Buy and start chitting early potatoes at the end of the month. Chitting will help to bring on a slightly earlier and heavier crop.

Sow sweet peas inside if you haven't already done so, pinch out the tips when they reach 10cm to encourage branching and new shoots.

Now is a good time to clean and sharpen your tools ready for use again in the spring. Smearing a thin film of oil over garden tools made of steel, or other metals liable to corrode, will protect them from rust. The

wooden handles also benefit from a rub with linseed oil.



"This book you took out on speed reading is 12 months overdue."



## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



*Pirbright's very own clairvoyant, Madame Lapin Jaune, and the PeriNews Panel of Pundits give their predictions for the year ahead.*

**January** In keeping with spirit of Brexit Pirbright is twinned with Huddersfield. To celebrate, instead of a Vin d'honneur the Twinning Association hold a Pie & Peas evening, with old ale for t'lads and port & lemon for t'lasses. Avenue de Cagny is renamed T' 'igh Streeet and Fulk's have a run on black pudding.



**February:** Pirbright's pubs are operating at full throttle and, as the last of the repairs at The Cricketers are completed, a scorched bird's nest reveals an egg about to hatch. The strange fledgling baffles avian experts at the Pirbright Institute, but it given a home at the Primary School Farm, where the children instantly identify it as a phoenix.



**March:** Nothing ever happens in March.

**April:** Romance is in the air as weddings are allowed in church again. A popular new form of service emerges, combining the nuptials of the happy couples, and the baptism of all the babies born whilst their weddings kept being postponed.

**May:** The Church holds the annual garden open day, opened by Royal gardening enthusiast Prince Charles. HRH visits several gardens and is seen talking to plants though, in keeping with royal protocol, the plants refuse to reveal what he said.

**June:** The Village Summer Fair takes place in glorious sunshine. British Marine Commandoes go head to head with US Navy Seals in a tug of war over the village pond. The Marines soon have the Seals teetering on the bank until health and safety marshals intervene to stop anyone getting dangerously wet.



**July:** The Twinning Association hosts a visit of families from Huddersfield. The brown ale on offer is soon forgotten when the visitors open the fine wines they have brought from the vineyards of South Yorkshire.

**August:** Pirbright is deserted as everyone goes on holiday. Tumble weed blows down School Lane and deer sleep under the traffic lights on Dawney Hill. A lost Amazon delivery driver calls out 'Is anyone at home?' but his voice echoes across the Green .....

**September** The Annual Flower and Produce Show is a huge success, though trouble breaks out in the home baking class when it is revealed that the secret ingredient in the cake should have been marmalade, not marmite. Half the village think the resulting cake disgusting and the other half think it is delicious.

**October:** Sightings of a mysterious Grey Lady haunting Pirbright Terrace are revealed to be Mrs Beasley rehearsing for her part in the Rawlins Club Pantomime.

**November:** The School Fireworks display is back and as spectacular as ever, though there is some concern when the Year 6 science club use the occasion to test their own small nuclear device.

**December:** Simply the Best Christmas Ever



**Editor:** Julia Douetil, [julia.douetil@gmail.com](mailto:julia.douetil@gmail.com) Church Cottage, Church Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JJ. Please send copy for February **by 8th January**. PeriNews is also on the Church and Parish Council websites, for you to download and print or keep, and you can receive PeriNews by e mail, just email Julia Douetil at the above address.